



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of

: Confirmation No. 3478

Hiroshi HAMASAKA et al.

: Docket No. 2002\_0034A

Serial No. 10/046,512

Filed January 16, 2002

INFORMATION RECORDING APPARATUS  
AND METHOD FOR THE SAME

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-144. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

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(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

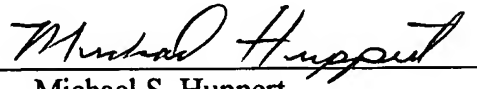
a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
  - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi HAMASAKA et al.

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April 25, 2002

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
AA								
AB								
AC								
AD								
AE								
AF								
AG								
AH								
AI								

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
AJ								
AK								
AL								
AM								
AN								

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
AO ✓	U.S. Patent Application - Serial No. 10/046,580, filed January 16, 2002, entitled <u>"Information Recording Medium, Apparatus and Method for Recording/Reproducing Information To/From the Medium"</u> , by Kojiro KAWASAKI, et al.
AP ✓	U.S. Patent Application - Serial No. 09/522,007, filed March 9, 2002, entitled <u>"Optical Disc, Optical Disc Recording and Reproducing Apparatus, and Optical Disc Recording and Reproducing Method"</u> , by Noriko SUGIMOTO et al.
AQ ✓	U.S. Patent Application - Serial No. 09/893,618, filed June 29, 2001, entitled <u>"Optical Disc, Optical Disc Recording and Reproducing Apparatus, and Optical Disc Recording and Reproducing Method"</u> , by Noriko SUGIMOTO et al.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.